SGCN and Habitat Stressors

Level 1 Threat Pollution

Level 2 Threat: Garbage and Solid Waste

Description: Rubbish and other solid materials including those that entangle wildlife

Species Associated With This Stressor: **Total SGCN: 1: 5 2: 7 3:**

Class	*Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Acipenser oxyrinchus*** (Atlantic Sturgeon) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Especially in high recreational use areas, garbage can be eaten by sturgeon and cause blockages. Ring shape garbage also has been found on sturgeon (around body) cutting into them as they grow and causing infection.

Species: ***Acipenser brevirostrum*** (Shortnose Sturgeon) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Especially in high recreational use areas, garbage can be eaten by sturgeon and cause blockages. Ring shape garbage also has been found on sturgeon (around body) cutting into them as they grow and causing infection.

Class	*Mammalia* (Mammals)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Balaenoptera musculus*** (Blue Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact marine mammals through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Species: ***Balaenoptera physalus*** (Finback Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact marine mammals through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Species: ***Megaptera novaeangliae*** (Humpback Whale) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact marine mammals through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Species: ***Eubalaena glacialis*** (North Atlantic Right Whale) **1**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact marine mammals through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

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Class	*Mammalia* (Mammals)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Balaenoptera borealis*** (Sei Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact marine mammals through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Species: ***Physeter macrocephalus*** (Sperm Whale) **2**

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact marine mammals through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Class	*Reptilia* (Reptiles)	SGCN Category

Species: ***Chelonia mydas*** (Green Seaturtle) **2**

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Marine turtles often ingest plastic which can be harmful. Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact sea turtles through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Species: ***Lepidochelys kempii*** (Kemp's Ridley Seaturtle) **2**

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Marine turtles often ingest plastic which can be harmful. Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact sea turtles through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Species: ***Dermochelys coriacea*** (Leatherback Seaturtle) **1**

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact sea turtles through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult. ingestion of plastic by leatherbacks who mistake it for jellyfish is a well documented threat.

Species: ***Caretta caretta*** (Loggerhead Seaturtle) **2**

Severity: Severe **Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Marine turtles often ingest plastic which can be harmful. Plastic waste, as well as marine debris from fixed fishing gear can negatively impact sea turtles through ingestion and entanglement in gear. There are marine debris clean up programs for derelict gear but they are likely only getting a fraction of what is out there. plastics and trash in the ocean comes from such a variety of places and can travel vast distances so getting a handle on the problem would be difficult.

Habitats Associated With This Stressor:

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Macrogroup Intertidal Sandy Shore

Habitat System Name: Sand Beach

Notes: Waste washes onto shores from marine waters or is dumped close to high usage areas. Contributes to biological habitat degredation.

Habitat System Name: Sand Flat

Notes: Waste washes onto shores from marine waters or is dumped close to high usage areas. Contributes to biological habitat degredation.

Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Notes: Waste washes onto shores from marine waters or is dumped close to high usage areas. Contributes to biological habitat degredation.

Macrogroup Subtidal Bedrock Bottom

Habitat System Name: Bedrock

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Erect Epifauna

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Kelp Bed

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Macrogroup Subtidal Coarse Gravel Bottom

Habitat System Name: Coarse Gravel

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Erect Epifauna

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Kelp Bed

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Macrogroup Subtidal Mollusc Reefs

Habitat System Name: Gastropod Reef

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Mussel Reef

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Oyster Reef

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Macrogroup Subtidal Mud Bottom

Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

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Macrogroup Subtidal Mud Bottom

Habitat System Name: Unvegetated

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Macrogroup Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Habitat System Name: Confined Channel

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Nearshore

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Offshore

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Upwelling Zones

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Macrogroup Subtidal Sand Bottom

Habitat System Name: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

Habitat System Name: Unvegetated

Notes: Lost fishing gear, discarded plastics, boat mechanic fluid containers (oil, antifreeze). Sometimes can be retrieved (ghost gear programs), but is generally lost especially if offshore.

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The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.